

My name is Efrain Madera and I am currently a student of Social Work at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. I am writing in support HB 5374 (Raised) An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Study on the Department of Children and Families as They Relate to the Preparation of Youths Aging Out of State Care.

This is an important matter for every citizen of this State to be concerned. At the age of 18, these youngsters may be legally considered adults; however, most of these children have not had the proper guidance and support from their biological family landing them in foster care. These children are not adequately prepared to handle "life" unsupervised. As we all know, it is our job as parents to guide and teach our children how to accept the world and all of its challenges without feeling overwhelmed. Most of these children have been raised under the guidance of the State Department of Children and Families. I am supporting HB 5374 because these children need more guidance before becoming completely responsible for themselves.

I would like to thank you and the rest of the Program Review and Investigations Committee for proposing this important Bill HB 5374 and for having the foresight our aging out population needs.

Sincerely,

Efrain Madera.